

PET READING

DISAPPEARING ART

Before you start reading, see if you can translate these words (there may be more than one translation possible):

escultor:

piedra:

escultura:

tipo, clase:

carrera profesional:

propio:

propósitos, motivos:

tamaño real:

cubitos de hielo:

anuncios:

claro:

almacenar:

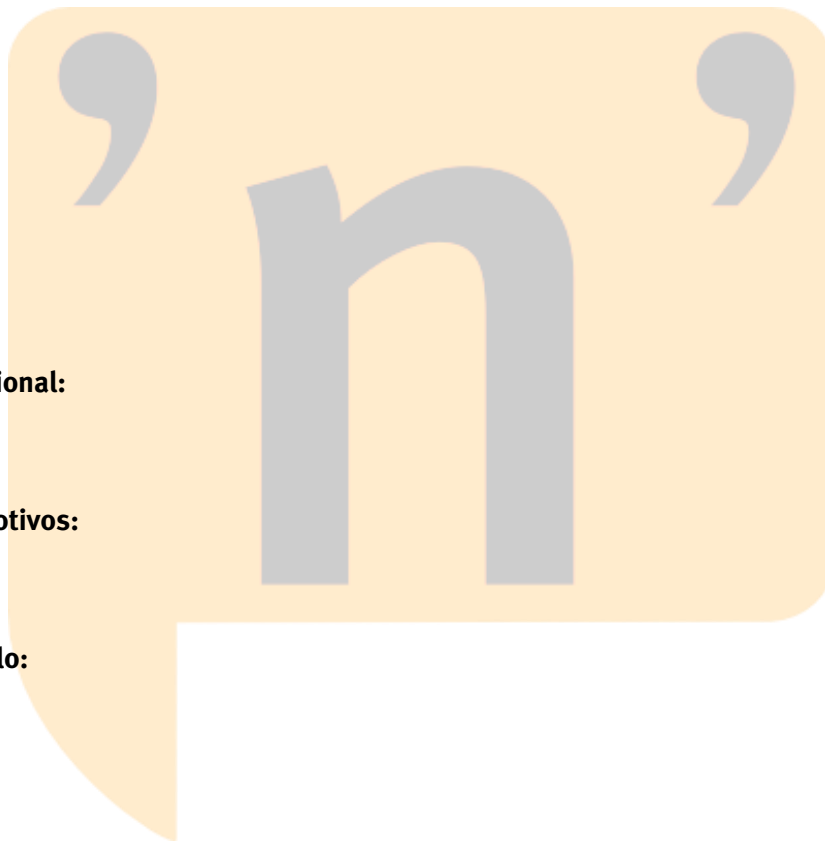
difícil, duro:

derritir:

no le importa (a él):

incluso:

durar:



NOW READ THE TEXT AND COMPARE YOUR TRANSLATIONS WITH THE WORDS IN THE TEXT:

Duncan Hamilton creates great works of art, but he doesn't use paint or pencils. He's a sculptor, but he doesn't use wood or stone. He always works quickly and the longest he's ever spent on a sculpture is two weeks. So what kind of material does he use to create his art? Ice!

Duncan has had an interesting career. He started out as a chef and then became interested in ice sculpture. Now he has his own business, making fantastic ice sculptures for all kinds of purposes, including the cinema, advertising, tourism and for magazine photos. Duncan has made everything from a life-size igloo in London's Trafalgar Square to a 12-metre-wide castle for a wedding, and ice cubes for drinks adverts.

So how does he make his sculptures? Duncan and his team work very carefully to produce their ice. This is because it has to be very clean and clear. It also has to be stored at certain temperatures. If the ice is completely frozen, it can be very hard to work with. Not only that, but the ice can burn, so the artists have to wear special protective clothes.

Unlike other forms of art, ice sculptures don't last forever because they melt. Some people can't imagine losing something they've created like this. Luckily, Duncan doesn't mind watching his sculptures slowly change and then disappear. Many of the sculptures even look better after a few hours at room temperature. The average ice sculpture lasts for six or seven hours and may take a couple of days to completely melt, but the smaller ones don't last long at all.

Choose the correct answer:

1. What is the writer's main aim in writing the text?
 - a. to talk about the importance of art
 - b. to explain how one artist works
 - c. to say why ice sculpture is popular
 - d. to describe the disadvantages of being an artist.
2. What would a reader learn about Duncan Hamilton from the text?
 - a. He has always been a successful artist.
 - b. He makes sculptures from all kinds of materials
 - c. He prefers to work alone
 - d. He is popular with the media
3. What does the writer say about the ice?
 - a. Duncan's team make it themselves
 - b. It must be completely frozen
 - c. The team have to make it quickly
 - d. It is completely safe to work with.
4. The writer says that Duncan's sculptures
 - a. are always huge
 - b. generally last for a day
 - c. take about a week to make
 - d. can improve when they start to melt
5. Which of the following could be a title for this text?
 - a. How to make an ice sculpture.
 - b. How to change your career
 - c. How to get on television
 - d. How to make art a business